FERA and Income Tax Raids on M / S. Jyoti Wire Industries etc.

189. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any raids were conducted by the income-tax officials at the business premises of certain individuals of Bombay in January, 1990;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) how much undisclosed cash and jewellery was found from the residence of the Chairman of M / s. Jyoti Wire Industries;

(d) what are the details of cash and jewellery found from Mr. Diren D. Mehta's residence at Peddar Road, Bombay during the searches made;

(e) what incriminating documents and papers relating to FERA violation were found; and

(f) what was the amount of concealed income detected and income tax payable by the various individuals raided?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During January, 1990, the Income-tax Department conducted 48 searches in Bombay at the business and residential premises of various persons. These searches resulted in seizure of *prima-facie* un-accounted assets of approximate value of Rs. 7.81 crores.

(c) *Prima-facie* unaccounted cash of Rs. 2 lakhs, jewellery of estimated value of Rs. 7 lakhs, silver untensils of estimated value of Rs. 1.92 lakhs and other valuable assets of Rs.1 lakh were seized from the residence of Shri D.R. Mehta, Chairman, M / s. Jyoti Wire Industries Ltd.

(d) Search at the residential premises at 4th Floor, Blue Gardenia, Peddar Road, Bombay, was conducted in respect of Smt. Jyoti D. Sanghvi, Shri Dhiren D. Mehta and Shri D.R. Mehta. At the said premises, *prima-facie* unaccounted jewellery and silver of estimated value of Rs. 2.32 lakhs was seized in the case of Smt. Jyoti D. Sanghvi. There was no seizure of cash at this premises.

(e) Xerox copy of a travellers cheque and other documents indicating expenses abroad by Shri Vinod Mehta were seized at the residence of Smt. Kanak V. Mehta.

(f) Quantification of concealed income and income-tax payable thereon is done by the assessing officers while finalising the assessments in individual cases. The assessments have not been made. The details of unaccounted income disclosed by various persons of Jyoti Wire Group in their statements recorded during the course of the searches, are as under:—

Name		Amount of unaccounted income disclosed
Shri D.R. Mehta	:	Rs. 106 lakhs
Smt. Jyoti D. Sanghvi	:	Rs. 2.25 lakhs
M / s. Jyoti Wire Industries Ltd.	:	Rs. 50 lakhs
Shri H.R. Mehta	:	Rs. 31.56 lakhs
Shri Mahendra R. Mehta		Rs. 30 lakhs

Oozing of Oil from Bokaro Steel Plant

190. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge quantity of furnace oil has oozed out of a newly commissioned Blast Furnance at Bokaro Steel Plant and polluted the water of the adjacent Damodar River in the periphery of Bihar and West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what are the details of action taken or proposed to be taken by the Steel Plant authorities to purify the water of the river so as to make it fit for human consumption and to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) It is a fact that a quantity of around 200 kilo litre of furnace oil is estimated to have leaked into the Damodar River out of oil storage tank of refractory material plant of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) and had caused contamination to the river water.

(b) The details of action taken to purify the water are as follows:

(i) Immediately after hearing from the Coal Mines Area Development Authority, Government of Bihar, the Management of Bokaro Steel Plant rushed on April 6, 1990, a team of officers and workforce with all the implements to diffuse the effect of oil on the water supply to Dhanbad and adjacent area;

(ii) Elaborate arrangements were made to burn out the oil wherever possible and barricade oil from the intake area of the pump house at Jamadoba;

(iii) The supply of drinking water was also supplemented by the Bokaro Steel Plant Management using tankers;

(iv) Senior Officers of Bokaro Management alongwith the district authorities worked round the clock in clearing the accumulated oil and restoring water supply, which was duly done on April 10, 1990, after ensuring that the quality of filtered water was absolutely normal; and

(v) Additional water was also opened from Tenughat Dam Reservoir to the extent of 2600 cusecs.

In order to avoid recurrence of such an incident, the Management of Bokaro Steel Plant have taken the following steps:—

(i) The drainage system valves have been blanked with steel plates;

(ii) All oil separation chambers have been flushed and cleared;

(iii) The frequency of inspection and monitoring of the effluents has been increased to daily basis;

(iv) A coffer dam at the outfall channel is being built to decant the oil; and

(v) An elaborate system for pollution control with the help of internationally renowned consultants.

Laying down Gidelines for fixing the Timings of General Election and Bye-elections

191. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:
SHRI SUSHIL BARONGPA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 308 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether any decision has finally been taken regarding laying down comprehensive guidelines in the Election Law, itself for fixing the timings of general election and bye-elections to avoid any public criticism of the Election Commission regarding arbitrariness and partiality; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) There already exist several constitutional constraints on the Election Commission in regard to timing of the general elections. The question whether a time limit within which a bye-election must be held, should be prescribed by law, is presently under consideration of the Committee on Electoral Reforms appointed by the Government to go into all aspects of elections. The